

PROTOCOLS FOR GRAZING LANDS

SHEET & RILL: In making this assessment, the history of disturbances needs to be considered. Points are given if sheet & rill erosion is demonstrated by observation of the following criteria. The descriptions for each of the considerations must be evident for awarding points. Refer to the publication "Interpreting Indicators of Range land Health" for additional information.

- Rills - Are present and formation is moderately active and well defined throughout most of the area.
- Flow – Overland flow is when infiltration capacity is exceeded. Flow patterns are more numerous than expected and deposition and cut areas are common.
- Pedestals or Terracettes – Pedestals are rocks or plants that appear elevated as a result of soil loss. Terracettes are benches of soil deposition behind obstacles (caused by water movement). Active pedestaling evident and terracettes are common. Some rocks and plants are pedestaled with occasional exposed roots.
- Bare ground – Exposed mineral or organic soils susceptible to raindrop splash erosion. Evidence is higher than expected for the ecological site, areas are large and occasionally connected.

EPHEMERAL GULLY/CONCENTRATED FLOW: Ephemeral gully is typically associated with 9% slopes or greater. Points are given if ephemeral gully erosion as calculated using Alutrin Rill Erosion Method (Agron. TechNote 8) is in excess of the soil loss tolerance "T" and the producer will implement conservation practices that will reduce Sheet & Rill and Ephemeral Gully erosion to equal to or less than "T." This calculation will be a support document and will be included in the conservation plan.

CLASSIC GULLY: Gullies generally follow natural drainages and are caused by accelerated flows and resulting down cutting of soil. Award points if moderate to common in number of gullies with indicators of active erosion. Vegetation is intermittent on the slopes or beds and headcuts are active. Refer to the publication "Interpreting Indicators of Range land Health" for additional information.

STREAMBANK EROSION: Points should be counted if landuse contains active accelerated streambank erosion and BMP's will be applied to address and correct the problem. Streambank erosion may be occurring as a result of impacts from this landuse or originating from upstream actions. In order to score points on this issue, livestock exclusion or structural practices involving stream bank bioengineering, rock riprap, rock barbs or toe protection or other in-stream structures designed to protect the banks need to be applied. Producers who are implementing management changes within the riparian area to improve vegetation do not score points on this question.

IRRIGATION INDUCED - SURFACE: Points are given if irrigation induced erosion as calculated using SISL is in excess of the soil loss tolerance "T" and the producer will implement conservation practices that will reduce the irrigation induced soil loss to less than "T."

WATER MANAGEMENT FOR IRRIGATED LAND: This resource concern DOES NOT apply to the conversion of one type of irrigation system to another type of irrigation system for the purpose of conserving water. This resource problem considers the EFFICIENCY of the irrigation system (either existing system or planned system) and whether or not irrigation system improvements are needed for the irrigation system to meet the quality criteria; an efficiency of 85% of the systems potential. Award points if conservation practices are needed and will be implemented to improve the irrigation efficiency to at least 85% of the systems potential.

GROUND WATER – NUTRIENTS & ORGANICS: Points for this category should be awarded for AFO's or feeding areas with inadequate storage facilities or temporary storage sites with soils characteristics not meeting agency permeability standards. A soil scientist determination or lab-tested sample taken by proper sampling technique meets this standard with soils containing a minimum of 15% clay. Winter feed areas located on high permeable soils, moderate to shallow depth to ground water may utilize this category.

SURFACE WATER - NUTRIENTS AND ANIMAL WASTE: These resource concerns are used to identify land that is contributing to a water quality problem in a 303d listed waterbody. Main focus of this criterion is application of commercial fertilizer or organic material, which by transport degrades surface waters. The waterbody must be listed for the resource concern and the land must be in close enough proximity to the waterbody to be contributing to the problem. Waterbodies that are not on the 303d list for a specific resource concern may be allowed points if approved, in writing, by the program manager.

SURFACE WATER - SUSPENDED SEDIMENT AND TURBIDITY: These resource concerns are used to identify land that is contributing to a water quality problem in a 303d listed waterbody. The waterbody must be listed for the resource concern and the land must be in close enough proximity to the waterbody to be contributing to the problem. Waterbodies that are not on the 303d list for a specific resource concern may be allowed points if approved, in writing, by the program manager.

PROTOCOLS FOR GRAZING LANDS (continued)

SURFACE WATER – PATHOGENS: Points are taken if organic transport is occurring from concentrated feeding areas, corrals, heavy use areas or water gaps and the waterbody of concern has pathogens identified as a pollutant/parameter of concern. If pathogens are not listed by DEQ as a pollutant for the 303d stream no points are taken. Waterbodies that are not on the 303d list for a specific resource concern may be allowed points if approved, in writing, by the program manager

PLANTS – ESTABLISHMENT, GROWTH AND HARVEST: For Rangeland, complete ID-190-004, (ID-ECS-2) and for Pastureland, complete ID-190-002, Pasture and Hayland Condition Rating. Award points if range or pasture condition rates fair or below with a stable or downward trend.

PLANT MANAGEMENT: PESTS: The local pest control board must have identified and targeted a specific pest and the pest is having an impact on the acreage to be treated. Specific practices identified by the local weed control board that will impact the identified pest must be implemented. Documentation of the pest to be controlled and the control methods to be implemented must be included in the conservation plan.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL DRINKING WATER-QUANTITY AND QUALITY: This category is intended to provide improvement to livestock watering facilities. The intent is the development of off-site water facilities to eliminate or reduce livestock impacts to surface waters.

REGULATORY AND OTHER ISSUES:

303D LISTED STREAMS: The conservation practices scheduled for implementation must have a positive impact on a 303d listed waterbody.

T&E SPECIES: In order to score points on this question, Federal Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) fish, amphibians, and/or mollusks must be listed in the local FOTG and exist in the watershed where the planned practices will be implemented. (An example: If salmon are listed in the Snake River Watershed but are not listed in the local FOTG, **do not** take points for threatened and endangered species). This is a water quality statewide concern, so no points are given for birds, mammals, and/or plants. The conservation practice(s) must be expected to have a direct benefit to the considered species.

GROUND WATER QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS: Points can be taken if the land is in a Nitrate Priority Area as identified by DEQ or if the area is in a high or very high Ground Water Vulnerability Area as identified on maps in the FOTG or by rating the area using the Ground Water Contamination Probability Worksheet originally distributed by ID Bulletin 180-9-4. Conservation practices must be implemented that will reduce the potential for ground water degradation.

WATER CONSERVATION: To be given points in this category, the producer must be converting from one type of irrigation system to a more efficient system that will reduce the overall water consumptive use. For example, conversion of a surface irrigation system to sprinkler or drip; conversion of sprinkler irrigation to drip irrigation; conversion of surface irrigation system to surge irrigation; the addition of a tailwater recovery system. The conversion from one type of sprinkler system to another type of sprinkler system is NOT applicable.

RIPARIAN AREA: Points are given if the area being treated includes a riparian area and this area will benefit from the conservation treatment being applied.

RANGE: Points are given if the area being treated is rangeland.